

Claims

1. Method for billing a communications link (KV) that is established via the Internet (INET) between a first communications terminal (KEG) and a mobile target communications terminal (ZKEG) of a packet-oriented mobile radio network (MFN), wherein
- a set-up message (AF) relating to the first communications link (KV) is routed by the first communications terminal (KEG) via the Internet (INET) to a network node (GW) of the mobile radio network (MFN),
 - the network node (GW) determines a call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3), wherein charge payment data relating to the first communications terminal (KEG) are stored (M1).
 - a charge request (GA) relating to the communications link (KV) is transmitted by the network node (GW) to the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3),
 - a check is carried out by the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3), as to whether the charges relating to the communications link (KV) at the mobile radio network end are being borne at the communications terminal (KEG) end,
 - a response message (AN), containing the result of said check, is sent to the network node (GW) by the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3)
 - if there is a positive result for said check in the mobile radio network (MFN), the communications link (KV) to the target communications terminal (ZKEG) is established, or

- if there is a negative result for said check in the mobile radio network (MFN), the establishment of the communications link (KV) is aborted.

5 2. Method according to Claim 1,
characterized in that

a link node (GW) connecting the Internet (INET) to the mobile radio network (MFN) is used as a network node.

10 3. Method according to Claim 1 or 2,
characterized in that

an element (GW) of a data packet control system (IMS) that controls the establishment of the link is used as a network node.

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4. Method according to one of the preceding Claims,
characterized in that
the first communications terminal (KEG) is linked to the Internet (INET) via an Internet access network (ISP).

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5. Method according to Claim 4,
characterized in that
a network computer (GS1) of the Internet access network (ISP) is used as a call charge computer.

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6. Method according to one of Claims 1 to 4,
characterized in that

a network computer (GS3) of the mobile radio network (MFN) is used as a call charge computer

7. Method according to one of Claims 1 to 4,

5 characterized in that

an Internet computer (GS2) of the Internet (INET) is used as a call charge computer.

8. Method according to one of the preceding Claims,

10 characterized in that

- by means of the response message (AN), information is sent to the network node (GW) stating that all the charges that are incurred in relation to the

15 communications link (KV) are being borne at the first communications terminal end (KEG),

- call charge data relating to said charges are recorded (M1) in the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3), and

20 - a charge payment is effected by an operator of the communications terminal (KEG) to an operator of the mobile radio network (MFN).

9. Method according to one of Claims 1 to 7,

characterized in that

25 - information is transmitted, by means of the response message (AN), to the network node (GW) stating that the charges incurred with respect to the communications link (KV) are being borne at the first communications terminal end (KEG) up to a pre-selected maximum level;

- call charge data relating to said charges are recorded (M1) in the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3), and
- a charge payment is effected via the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3) by an operator of the communications terminal (KEG) to an operator of the mobile radio network (MFN).

10. Method according to Claim 9,
characterized in that

- 10 - the communications link (KV) is terminated if a charge level recorded with the call charge data reaches the maximum level.

11. Method according to Claim 9,
15 characterized in that

- as soon as a charge level recorded with the call charge data reaches the maximum level, an additional charge payment is effected and henceforth a fresh recording (M1) of the call charge data, starting at the zero charge level is effected.

12. Method according to any of Claims 1 to 7,
characterized in that

- 25 - by means of the response message (AN), information is transmitted to the network node (GW) stating that a proportion of the charges that are incurred in relation to the communications link (KV) are being borne at the first communications terminal end (KEG),

- call charge data relating to said proportion of the charges are recorded (M1) in the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3), and that
- a charge payment to an operator of the mobile radio network (MFN) is effected by an operator of the communications terminal (KEG) through the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3).

13. Method according to any of Claims 8 to 12,
10 characterized in that

- further call charge data are recorded in a memory (M2) of the mobile radio network (MFN), in order to check charge payment procedures during the call charge payment that has been effected by comparing the call charge data recorded (M1) in the call charge computer with the further call charge data recorded in the memory (M2) of the mobile radio network (MFN).

14. Method according to any of Claims 8 to 13,
20 characterized in that

- during the call charge payment that has been effected, the call charges are divided between the operator of the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3) and the operator of the mobile radio network (MFN).

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15. Method according to any of the preceding Claims, characterized in that,
- before the response message (AN) is transmitted by the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3), the transmission to

the first communications terminal (KEG) of an information message (IN) relating to the call charges is effected,

- the receipt of the information message (IN) is confirmed by means of a confirmation message (BN) issued by the

5 first communications terminal (KEG), and

- after said confirmation message (BN) has been received, the response message (AN) is transmitted to the network node (GW) by the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3).

10 16. Method according to Claim 15,
characterized in that

- a proceed-to-dial relating to the call charges is transmitted to the first communications terminal (KEG) together with the information message (IN),

15 - a selection is made by the first communications terminal (KEG) in response to the proceed-to-dial, and information relating to the selection that has been made is transmitted by means of the confirmation message (BN) to the call charge computer (GS1, GS2, GS3).